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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00
FCC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-15 COME-00
BIB-01 /055 W
----------019240 250340Z /14
R 241358Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2421
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 0580

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, FI
SUBJECT: GOF REQUESTS RECONSIDERATION OF FCC RULING AGAINST
TRANSATLANTIC CABLE

1. SUMMARY: THE GOF HAS REQUESTED RECONSIDERATION OF A FEDERAL
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION RULING THAT NO NEW TRANSATLANTIC
CABLES SHOULD BE BUILT BEFORE 1985. THE FINNISH REQUEST
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN CONCERT WITH OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE CONFERENCE EUROPEENE DES ADMINISTRATIONS DES
POSTES ET DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. ON FEBRUARY 22, THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA'S
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS ERKKI MAENTAKANEN
AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST. MAENTAKANEN ASKED THAT THE
EMBASSY INFORM WASHINGTON ON CONCERNS OF THE GOF THAT ARE
SET OUT IN THE FOLLOWING AIDE-MEMOIRE HANDED OVER AT THE
END OF THE INTERVIEW:
"FEBRUARY 22, 1978
"AIDE-MEMOIRE
"TRANSATLANTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS
"TO EXTEND AND IMPROVE TRANSATLANTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS
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IT WAS DECIDED IN FEBRUARY 1977 IN A MEETING OF
EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN
THIS FIELD THAT A NEW TRANSATLANTIC CABLE SHOULD BE
BUILT BY JANUARY 1981. CONTRARY TO THIS DECISION THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOWEVER, ISSUED A RULING THAT NO NEW SUBMARINE CABLE
SHOULD BE BUILT BEFORE 1985.

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"IN THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FINNISH POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE UNITED STATES TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES CONCERNED IT WAS AGREED THAT FINLAND WOULD RESERVE 23 CIRCUITS FOR HER DISPOSAL IN THE COMING TRANSATLANTIC CABLE WHICH ALSO IN THE CASE OF FINLAND WOULD RENDER TRANSATLANTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS MORE VERSATILE AND OPERATIONALLY SECURE. ON THE OTHER HAND FINLAND PREFERS THE CABLE SYSTEM ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS SOMEWHAT LOWER COSTS.
"AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE EUROPEENE DES ADMINISTRATIONS DES POSTES AT DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS, FINLAND WOULD WELCOME IT IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SOUGHT RECONSIDERATION OF THE DECISION MADE BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE BUILDING OF A NEW TRANSATLANTIC SUBMARINE CABLE BY 1981. FINLAND SPUUPORT ALL EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED."

3. THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR SAID FINNISH VIEWS WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE APPROPRIATE USG AUTHORITIES.
RIDGWAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNICATION LINES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HELSIN00580
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780087-0333
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780218/aaaaaoof.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a6d338d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3490614
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOF REQUESTS RECONSIDERATION OF FCC RULING AGAINST TRANSATLANTIC CABLE
TAGS: ETEL, FI, FCC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a6d338d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
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